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SOURCE      Statisztikai Szemle.

CALLS FOR MORE STATE DISCIPLINE IN HUNGARIAN STATISTICS

Substantial results have been accomplished in the field of socialist statistics, but many problems remain to be solved.

One of the outstanding defects is laxity in the transmission of statistical information. This fact manifests itself in not meeting deadlines, presenting incorrect data, and filling out and issuing questionnaires not authorized by the government.

Those guilty of the above hinder the building of socialism. The fact that deadlines are not met hinders the evaluation of the information, thus delaying the correction of errors. The very errors and mistakes pointed out by the statistical information are not rectified until later. For example, in connection with the November industrial statistical report, 47 heavy and 61 light industrial concerns did not meet the deadline. Among these were such important industrial concerns as the Ganz Wagonworks (Ganz Vagon), Hungarian Steel (Magyar Acél), etc.

Every incorrect report misleads the party and the government.

A large amount of damage is caused by superfluous and often useless questionnaires. Although the issuance of such questionnaires has been prohibited by the National Economic Council, there are many violations in this field also.

A survey discloses that too many statistical reports are prepared by enterprises for the use of higher governmental agencies. A large amount of duplication also takes place.

The explanation for requiring immense amounts of statistical information lies in ignorance, inexperience, lack of discipline, and the wrong kind of political attitude. It shows conceit and contempt for the working masses and the leaders of the lower echelons. Questionnaires which are too detailed show that the sender wants to know everything because he wants to do everything.

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The superfluously ordered collections of data and reports endanger the correctness of vitally needed information. Deadlines often are not met because time is spent with unnecessary work. We must eliminate error and we must strengthen state discipline in the field of statistics.

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